

Box 87 Silver 20

1954

EXAMINATION 11, 12, 24, June Aug
Oceano Mexico Mexico 1954 (24) 1955
in the multiphase development of the
Mineral Report, Mexico 1954



" Excavation of TMC 248, Sierra Azul, Ocampo, March 1954.

Excavation of this cave revealed 8 levels widely deposited throughout the cave. The oldest is a gravel deposit, evenly deposited over nearly the entire bottom of the cave. In one or two places it overlies a red clay. 3 artifacts came from deep, apparently undisturbed portions of the gravel, but there were no obvious similarities to artifacts known from other areas. A few bones were also found in this deposit, but were very rare. Immediately above this, a brownish and usually thick vegetable layer was present. Giant deer teeth were found in this level, along as well as string, netted bags, ~~part of~~ one large part of a mat and some smaller pieces, an atlatl foreshaft, and ~~other~~ other artifacts. Bones and snail shells were common. No corn was found in this level, but seeds of some member of the squash family and, to our surprise, what seemed to be beans. Subsequent checking of materials previously excavated in TMC 247 indicated that beans, although very rare, occurred there also in ~~the earliest~~ ^{one of} ~~level~~ ^{earliest} period of occupation, although not common until much later. ^{and recent from the adjacent} In some places this usually apparently homogenous deposit divided into as much as 4 thin vegetable layers separated by ash layers. Level 6, above this, was a yellowish earth, containing occasional vegetable materials. Level 5 was normally a thin burnt vegetable layer, separated in places ~~by~~ from level 6 by several lenses of ash and vegetable layers. In level 5 was found a Tortugas Triangular point, the only clearly identifiable point found probably in situ in the ~~proper~~ occupation level where it belonged. Level 4 was usually a thick gray ash, containing sometimes up to three vegetable layers, but usually without vegetable remains. Level 3 was a thick vegetable layer. None of these levels contained either corn or pottery of any type, and all contained large amounts of bone and snail shells, as well as occasional squash and beans. Large crude flake and core choppers were frequent in all levels, especially in the earliest. ~~Mats and string~~ Pieces of mats and string were, except for the choppers, the commonest evidence of human occupation. All these levels seem to correspond to the pre-corn occupation of the adjacent cave, TMC 247, although the occupation of TMC 248 may have begun somewhat earlier. Level 2 is a ~~thick~~ gray ash layer, containing relatively modern corn and plain undecorated pottery. In very large sections of the cave, this ash formed pits, cutting through all the other levels down to the gravel. Unfortunately most of the lance and arrow-points came from this ash, and were clearly derived from earlier, destroyed deposits. Level 1 was a vegetable layer, dividing in places into three lenses, and apparently corresponding to a late Los Angeles focus occupation. No serrated points were found in this cave, and I believe that both the pottery levels are subsequent to the period when these points were used. A child's mummy was encountered in a gray ash level apparently corresponding to level 2, but possibly to level 1."

earliest

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Examination by TMO 246, June 24, 1954
Orange, Mexico, June 1954 (24) 1954
In multiple discharges, multiple
multiple discharges, multiple 1954

